

REMARKS

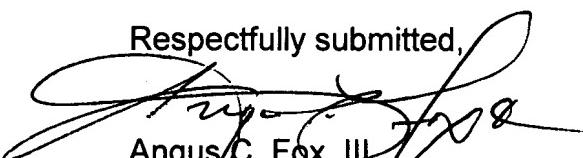
Claims 8, 10-14, 21, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Tizzi (U.S. Patent No. 3,955,934). Claims 9, 10 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Tizzi (U.S. Patent No. 3,955,934), and further in view of Robertson (U.S. Patent 5,855,969). Claims 25, 27 and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Tizzi (U.S. Patent No. 3,955,934), and further in view of Barr (U.S. Patent 5,586,390). Claims 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Tizzi (U.S. Patent No. 3,955,934), and further in view of Robertson.

The applicant asserts that none of the references cited by the examiner teaches the steps of cutting, laser marking, and bending a piece of sheet metal. Although the examiner has assembled a list of references that include the individual steps in an unordered arrangement, it was not at all obvious when the present invention was reduced to practice, that a reacted design created by a laser on a metal surface would remain undamaged and intact during the bending process, as the outer surface on a piece of sheet metal that is being bent is stretched, while the inner surface is compressed. The applicant believes that no one had ever attempted to bend laser marked metal before he reduced his invention to practice. Thus, there is no foundation for the examiner's characterization of the process as obvious.

It is believed that the application and claims, as amended, of the present application are in a condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a full and complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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